

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request admission of the foregoing amendment to place the application in condition for allowance by traversing the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-6 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. Claim 1 is sought to be amended. Claims 7-20 are sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Election/Restrictions***

The Office Action reports that "[c]laims 7-20 have been withdrawn from consideration." (Office Action at p. 2.) Accordingly, Applicants have canceled claims 7-20 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

***Dingwall***

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,521,703 to Dingwall (hereinafter "Dingwall"). (See Office Action at p. 2.) Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Amended independent claim 1 recites (emphasis added):

A latch circuit, comprising:

a bistable pair of transistors connected between a reset switch and a first supply voltage, and having a first port for receiving a first current signal and producing a first output voltage, and a second port for receiving a second current signal and producing a second output voltage; and

a vertical latch connected between said first supply voltage and a second supply voltage, and connected to said first port, said vertical latch having a transistor connected to said first port so that, when said transistor is turned on, a current flows from said second supply voltage through said transistor to said first port;

wherein said reset switch is configured to couple said first port directly to said second port and ***said bistable pair of transistors are connected directly to said first supply voltage.***

Dingwall does not disclose, teach, or suggest a latch circuit having a bistable pair of transistors connected directly to the first supply voltage. Therefore, Dingwall does not anticipate claim 1. Because claims 2-4 depend upon claim 1 and because of the additional distinctive features of claims 2-4, these claims are also not anticipated by Dingwall. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejections of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) with respect to Dingwall.

***Zerbe***

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,977,798 to Zerbe (hereinafter "Zerbe"). (See Office Action at p. 3.) Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Amended independent claim 1 recites (emphasis added):

A latch circuit, comprising:

a bistable pair of transistors connected between a reset switch and a first supply voltage, and having a first port for receiving a first current signal and producing a first output voltage, and a second port for receiving a second current signal and producing a second output voltage; and

a vertical latch connected between said first supply voltage and a second supply voltage, and connected to said first port, said vertical latch having a transistor connected to said first port so that, when said transistor is turned on, a current flows from said second supply voltage through said transistor to said first port;

wherein *said reset switch is configured to couple said first port directly to said second port* and said bistable pair of transistors are connected directly to said first supply voltage.

Zerbe does not disclose, teach, or suggest a latch circuit having a reset switch configured to couple the first port directly to the second port. Therefore, Zerbe does not anticipate claim 1. Because claims 2-6 depend upon claim 1 and because of the additional distinctive features of claims 2-6, these claims are also not anticipated by Zerbe. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejections of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) with respect to Zerbe.

***Jaussi***

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,825,696 to Jaussi *et al.* (hereinafter "Jaussi"). (See Office Action at p. 4.) Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Jaussi should be removed as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). The present application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Appl. No. 60/271,425, filed February 27, 2001. (See Specification at ¶ 1.) The patent application that yielded Jaussi was filed June 27, 2001. Thus, the effective filing date of the present application predates Jaussi such that it should not be applied as a prior art reference against the present application. (See M.P.E.P. § 706.02.)

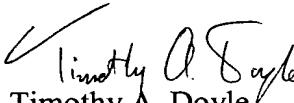
***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

  
Timothy A. Doyle  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 51,262

Date: 29 JUN 06

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

548480\_1.DOC